

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08 AF-10 ARA-10
EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01
L-03 PA-01 /096 W
-----100873 041324Z /53

P R 041222Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 657
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EPAP, UNCTAD, IN
SUBJECT: VIEWS OF GOI DELEGATE TO UNCTAD MEETING ON JUTE

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON MINCOMMERCE JOINT SECRETARY B.L. DAS
APRIL 3 TO OBTAIN HIS VIEWS ON PROSPECTS FOR APRIL 10-14
MEETING OF UNCTAD WORKING GROUP ON JUTE. DAS WILL ONCE
AGAIN HEAD INDIA DELEGATION.

2. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND MARKET PROMOTION: EMBOFF
BEGAN BY COMMENTING THAT HE WAS SURPRISED THAT WORKING
GROUP AT ITS FIRST SESSION HAD NOT DEALT WITH THESE
ISSUES (GENEVA 936) IN VIEW OF GROUNDWORK LAID IN 1977;
HE ASKED WHETHER DAS BELIEVED GROUNDS FOR AGREEMENT
ALREADY EXISTED AND IF FURTHER PROGRESS COULD BE EXPECTED.

3. DAS REPLIED THAT THERE WAS BROAD CONSENSUS BETWEEN
PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS WITH REGARD TO NEED TO IMPROVE
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PRODUCTIVITY AND MARKETING. OPERATIONAL DETAILS HAD TO
BE WORKED OUT, BUT THESE SHOULD NOT PROVE DIFFIULT.
DURING NEXT WEEK'S MEETING HE WANTED TO MAKE CONCRETE
PROGRESS IN THIS AREA AND NOT LET THIS ASPECT OF ORK
ON JUTE CONTINUE TO SLIDE.

4. STABILIZATION: IN CONTRAST TO R AND D AREA, DAS FELT

THAT PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS HAD STRONGLY OPPOSING VIEWS ON THE UTILITY OF BUFFER STOCKING. HE FELT THAT SOME PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN THIS AREA OVER TIME, IN THAT CONSUMERS WRE NOW WILLING TO RECOGNIZE THAT PRICE STABILITY WAS A PROBLEM. HE HAD BEEN SURPRISED, #23;34, BY THE VEHEMENCE OF US POSITION IN OBJECTING TO THE INCLUSION OF JUTE PRODUCTS IN THE CONSIDERATION OF MEASURES TO ACHIEVE GREATER PRICE STABILITY. STABILIZ-
ING PRICE OF RAW JUTE WOULD BE OF NO BENEFIT, HE ARGUED, IF PRICE OF JUTE PRODUCTS WAS UNSTABLE, SINCE THE BASIC GOAL FOR JUTE IS COMPETITIVE STRENGTH AGAINST SYNTHETIC SUBSTITUTES.

5. SINCE NO AGREEMENT WAS POSSIBLE ON BUFFER STOCKING, DAS HOPED THAT WORKING GROUP WOULD CONSIDER OTHER PRO-
POSALS AIMED AT IMPROVING PRICE STABILITY. IMPLICATION OF IS REMAKR WAS THAT SUCH PROPOSALS SHOULD EMANATE FROM CONSUMERS OR UNCTAD SECRETARIAT.

6. JUTE INTERNATIONAL: DAS CONFIRMED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO FORWARD MOTION IN OBTAINING FINAL BANGLADESH CONSENT TO ESTABLISHING JUTE INTERNATIONAL. WITH THE RESOLUTION OF THE FARRAKA ISSUE, IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE POLITICAL OVERTONES OF THAT DISPUTE WERE NO LONGER THE PROBLEM. IN A PASSING REMARK, DAS INDICATED THAT BANGLADESHIS HAD RAISED AN OBJECTION TO ONE ARITCLE
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OF THE AGREEMENT BUT HAD NOT PURSUED THE MATTER. DAS UNDERSTOOD THAT NEPAL "STILL FEELS THE SAME WAY" AND IS READY TO SIGN. THE FAILURE TO MOVE AHEAD WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF JUTE INTERNATIONAL DRAFT AGREEMENT DID ADVERSELY AFFECT JUTE COMMODITY AGREEMENT NEGOTI-
ATIONS, HE FELT.

7. COMMENT: THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT GOI OFFICIALS WORKING ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS HAVE CON-
SCIOUSLY MOVED INTO A BARGAINING "MODE", WILLING TO GIVE UP IDEAL POSITIONS FOR CONCRETE BENEFITS. DAS'S STATEMENT ABOUT LOOKING FOR AN ACCEPTABLE PROPOSAL IN THE AREA OF PRICE STABILIZATION OTHER THAN BUFFER STOCKING SHOULD BE TAKEN IN THIS LIGHT.
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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